NEW YORK, NY (Tuesday, November 13, 2018) – More than 300 leading world-renowned architects, urban planners, artists, designers, civic leaders, real estate developers and public officials attended the Design Trust for Public Space’s 2018 Annual Benefit on Wednesday, November 7. The gala event recognized three visionary leaders who have significantly contributed to shaping New York City’s public realm—Carl Weisbrod, HR&A Advisors Senior Advisor with the Civic Leadership Award; Polly Trottenberg, New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) Commissioner with the Government Leadership Award; and Marc Heiman, Richter+Ratner President & CEO with the Industry Leadership Award. The benefit raised over $360,000—far exceeding last year’s event—for Design Trust’s catalytic public space work in under-resourced communities.

Design Trust for Public Space is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the future of public space in New York City. They bring together city agencies, community groups and private sector experts to make a lasting impact—through design—on how New Yorkers live, work and play. Guided by social justice, equity and environmental sustainability, their work can be seen, felt, and experienced throughout all five boroughs—from parks and plazas to streets and public buildings. Believing in public space’s role in the cultural and democratic life of the city, Design Trust inspires projects in other cities throughout the nation and the globe.

“We celebrate Carl Weisbrod, Polly Trottenberg, and Marc Heiman as exemplary private and public sector leaders. They activate neighborhoods for all New Yorkers through planning and economic development, transportation and policy, and design and construction. They’ve helped shape dynamic public spaces in areas where communities lack them. I congratulate and thank our honorees,” said Susan Chin, FAIA, Hon. ASLA, Design Trust for Public Space executive director.
Design Trust’s current projects include *Under the Elevated/El-Space*, a two-phase project in partnership with NYCDOT. This is the first major research, design, and planning initiative to document and analyze the vast network of underutilized spaces beneath New York City’s vast elevated transportation infrastructure, and to make recommendations for their improvement into neighborhood assets. “We believe the *Under the Elevated* study, coupled with DOT’s *El-Space* design toolkit, are important steps towards reclaiming this space for the public and reconnecting neighborhoods throughout New York,” said Polly Trottenberg, NYCDOT Commissioner. More details at [http://designtrust.org/projects/under-elevated-phase-ii/](http://designtrust.org/projects/under-elevated-phase-ii/)

Another ongoing undertaking called *Opening the Edge* addresses the lack of access by many public housing residents and the community in New York City to green space outside their doorsteps. Fenced off and unusable grassy spaces surround many developments, these areas do not provide any opportunities for social interaction and recreational activities. The *Opening the Edge* concept was proposed by public artist Jane Greengold and was developed by Design Trust in partnership with New York City Housing Authority. Currently in the design phase, *Opening the Edge* will create a public space prototype on one such grassy area at the Lillian Wald Houses on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. More details at [http://designtrust.org/projects/opening-edge-phase-ii/](http://designtrust.org/projects/opening-edge-phase-ii/)

As a lifelong New Yorker, it’s great to be here tonight to celebrate what all New Yorkers have in common—the need for great public spaces. It’s no secret that we are a city that is growing. This year we hit a record 8.6 million people and by 2030, we are projected to grow to 9 million. At the same time, land and space are becoming more finite and precious resources. That’s why the work the Design Trust does is so important,” said Alicia Glen, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development. “Whether it is reimagining spaces under the city’s elevated infrastructure, working with public housing residents to activate space in their developments or thinking about how arts and culture can further enhance the city’s existing public spaces, the Design Trust’s efforts continue to transform often underutilized spaces into great public spaces for all New Yorkers.”

“How we are going to have active, well-managed public space in a changing retail environment is one of the great challenges for urban planners. Or, how are we going to have dynamic multi-use spaces around our aging transportation infrastructure? These are the challenges that Design Trust is taking on and addressing through effective partnerships between the public and private sectors,” said Carl Weisbrod, HR&A Advisors Senior Advisor.

“Design Trust plays a crucial role in connecting private and public efforts focused on improving public space in New York City. As a member of the Design Trust for Public Space Board of Directors, I’m proud of our organization’s groundbreaking achievements,” said Marc Heiman, President & CEO, Richter•Ratner. “We gained an international recognition for saving the High Line structure in Manhattan, which has become one of the most famous urban parks in the world. Design Trust’s other innovative projects include New York City’s first custom-built *Taxi of Tomorrow*, the Community Design School at Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens, and New York City’s first comprehensive sustainability guidelines that became the precursor to Local Law 86 and PlaNYC, now known as OneNYC.”

Main sponsors of the 2018 Benefit included: Andrea Woodner, Camila Pastor and Stephen Maharam, GFP Real Estate, Richter•Ratner, HR&A Advisors, Industry City, Metro Management Development, and PJT Partners.

To support the Design Trust for Public Space and learn about the organization’s activities and upcoming events, please visit [http://designtrust.org/](http://designtrust.org/)

**MARC HEIMAN**

Marc Heiman joined Richter•Ratner in 2005 as president and chief operating officer. The first non-family member to join the executive team, he became Owner and CEO just four years later in 2009. With more than 25 years of experience in the industry, Mr. Heiman has managed over $5 billion in projects.
Prior to joining R+R, he was the Vice President of Sciame Construction. During his 21-year career in the industry he has overseen a variety of projects, including educational institutions (Parsons The New School, Lycée Français), retail flagships (Uniqlo, Bulgari), religious institutions (Central Synagogue) and expansion projects (Harvard Club).

Mr. Heiman currently serves as Board Treasurer for the Design Trust for Public Space and as an AIA New York Board Member. He has been instrumental in expanding the Design Trust’s capacity to create community-based inclusive, equitable public space across the five boroughs of NYC.

POLLY TROTENBERG
Appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio in January 2014, Commissioner Polly Trottenberg leads the NYC Department of Transportation, the nation’s largest municipal transportation agency with over 5,000 employees and a $17 billion 10-year capital plan.

As Commissioner, Polly Trottenberg directs the agency’s mission—focusing on mobility, safety, equity, sustainability and economic growth in DOT’s oversight of roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and the Staten Island Ferry. Under her leadership, DOT has expanded street resurfacing and reconstruction, increased bridge rehabilitation and construction, improved bus performance, and expanded the bike network to over 1,190 miles.

She has led Mayor de Blasio’s Vision Zero initiative to eliminate roadway fatalities. New York City has redesigned hundreds of city streets and achieved legislative victories in lowering the City’s speed limit to 25 MPH. Under Vision Zero, the City has seen its fewest-ever traffic fatalities. Commissioner Trottenberg serves on the Board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and chairs TRANSCOM.

With a career in public service spanning over more than 25 years, Commissioner Trottenberg most recently served as USDOT’s Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, under the Obama Administration. She also worked under U.S. Senators Charles Schumer, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Barbara Boxer. Trottenberg graduated from Barnard College and received her Master’s in Public Policy from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

CARL WEISBROD
Carl Weisbrod has had an extraordinary impact on New York City’s public realm throughout his outstanding four-decade career dedicated to public service. As founding president of NYC’s Economic Development Corporation, Mr. Weisbrod led public and private partnerships that transformed some of the City’s most dynamic and fastest-growing neighborhoods. Mayor Bloomberg appointed Mr. Weisbrod as the director of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation following the devastation of Lower Manhattan after the 9/11 attacks, where he was instrumental in the dramatic recovery of the area and leading efforts to heal the city.

As a member of the de Blasio Administration, he served as both chairman of the New York City Planning Commission and also director of the NYC Department of City Planning. Mr. Weisbrod was charged with creating land-use policies to promote an equitable, resilient, sustainable and economically vibrant city; his tenure has overseen the enactment of Zoning for Quality and Affordability, which led to the Midtown East rezoning project, including vast improvements to public space near Grand Central.

Mr. Weisbrod’s distinguished career is a testament to his commitment to building equitable, resilient, and economically vibrant communities.

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